

## ROLE OF MONITORS

The number of people joining the Dale Farm alert list has grown steadily and now numbers several hundred; some signing up as Monitors others to be part of a human shield (first mooted by Corin and Vanessa Redgrave) which could legally challenge access up the private Oak Lane.

Additionally, there is now the UN Mission, authorized by the UN AGFE through UN Habitat. Members include Leticia Osorio, of Essex University, Cllr Candy Sheridan, co-chair of the Gypsy Council, Florina Zoltan M.A., and the mission's reference person Joseph G.Jones, UK delegate to the International Romani Union.

Monitors will want to equip themselves with cameras (better still video cameras) and be prepared to make reports on what they witness. A number will be able to participate in pre-eviction talks with council officials and senior police officers.

The failure of Basildon Council to produce **Risk Assessment** reports for either evictions carried out at Hovefields, Wickford, or as part of the planning for the mass forced eviction at Dale Farm could become a major issue.

## TECHNICAL BRIEFING

1 Following the MacPherson Report, any verbal or physical harassment motivated by hate (as perceived by the victims) is now classed a Hate Crime.

2 Health & Safety Regulations require that a perimeter safety fence be erected around Dale Farm before heavy machinery enters the site.

3 Safety regulations also require that all children and other vulnerable persons (elder and sick) are evacuated from the site before work commences.

4 Monitors can help see that children are allowed to prepare for school, get their breakfast and avail of normal school transport in mini-buses.

5 Wickford Churches are opening three halls for mothers and small children, elderly and sick. They are attempting to negotiate a proper evacuation plan with BDC and Essex County Council. Monitors can help oversee this evacuation.

6 At present, Dale Farm residents will get a 28 day notice to leave and then no more than a 45 minute warning of the arrival of bailiffs and police. It is hoped through prior talks with BDC officials to improve this state of affairs.

7 Monitors need to be aware that most of the 50 yards contain electric cables, water-pipes, buried cess-tanks and in a few cases asbestos roofing. We should have a Monitor in or near each yard so that close observation of how bailiffs work and behave can be maintained (the first day will be crucial - the operation is expected to last a week)

8 Specialist handling is required for asbestos removal. Fencing and huts should be **removed** and not burned (as in previous evictions).

9 The dismantling of chalets and removing mobile-homes should be done with care and minimal damage. All will be transported to a holding pound, probably at South Mimms (to be retrieved later by owners on payment of a fee)